

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 5-15 are pending herein. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended as supported by Fig. 1 of the present application, for example. New independent claim 9 and dependent claims 10-15 have been added as supported by Fig. 4 of the present application, for example.

1. Claims 1-8 were rejected under §102(b) over Fan. To the extent that this rejection may be applied against the amended and new claims, it is respectfully traversed.

Amended claim 1 recites a heating system comprising a ceramic substrate having a mounting face for mounting a wafer, a back face and a side face. The heating system further comprises a heating means for generating heat from the mounting face of the ceramic substrate and a plate-shaped metal supporting member for supporting the back face of the ceramic substrate. The entire lower face of the wafer opposes the mounting face of the ceramic substrate. Additionally, the heating means comprises a heat generator embedded in the ceramic substrate.

Fan discloses, in Fig. 1B and (Fig. 2B), a heating means 100 (200) having metal or ceramic spacers 104 (204) located in holes therein. Also disclosed is placing a wafer 106 (206) on top of the spacers 104 (204) in order to space the wafer 106 (206) a distance away from the heating means 100 (200). A material 108 (208) to be baked is shown placed on top of the wafer 106 (206). In an effort to correlate the features shown in Fan with the features of the present invention, it appears that the

Examiner is inferring that the spacers 104 (204) relate to the plate-shaped metal supporting member, that the wafer 106 (206) corresponds to the ceramic substrate, and that material 108 (208) corresponds to the wafer of the present invention. While Applicants disagree with these relations, especially due to the fact that there is no disclosure in Fan that wafer 106 (206) can be made of a ceramic and that material 108 (208) would apparently be a second wafer on top of a first wafer 106 (206), these will be the terms used in the argument against the present rejection to avoid further confusion.

Applicants respectfully submit that Fan fails to disclose several of the features recited in independent claims 1 and 9. Referring first to claim 1, Fan discloses the heating means 100 (200) spaced away from the ceramic substrate 106 (206) using the metal supporting members 104 (204). Therefore, Fan fails to disclose a heating system wherein the heating means comprises a heat generator embedded in the ceramic substrate, as recited in claim 1. Since claims 5-8 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1, claims 5-8 are also believed to be allowable over the prior art.

New independent claim 9 recites, among other things, a heating system wherein the whole of the lower face of the wafer opposes the mounting face of the ceramic substrate and wherein the heating means is provided between the ceramic substrate and the metal supporting member.

Fan, as discussed above, clearly discloses the wafer 108 (208) located directly on the ceramic substrate 106 (206), which is spaced away from the heating means 100 (200) by the metal supports 104 (204). Therefore, Fan clearly fails to disclose a

heating system wherein the heating means is provided between the ceramic substrate and the metal supporting member, as recited in claim 9. Since claims 10-15 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 9, claims 10-15 are also believed to be allowable over the applied art.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims herein are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to issue a Notice of Allowance for this application in due course.

If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call Applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,


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